

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Shinichi Ogasawara, et al.
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, an English language abstract and/or explanations are annexed thereto explaining its relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

Attached is a Chinese Office Action with translation dated August 1, 2008 from the corresponding Chinese Patent Application 200480030342.2. The Chinese Office Action cites three documents, two of which were previously submitted. US Patent 4,969,647 was submitted

in an IDS filed on September 18, 2007 and Japanese Application 2001-104645 was submitted in an IDS filed on March 24, 2006.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a final Office Action, the fee of \$180.00 for submission of this document should be charged to Deposit Account 50-1290, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and 1.17(p).

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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